

Appl. No.: 09/690,818
Reply to Office Action of January 27, 2005

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of January 27, 2005, careful reconsideration of this application in light of the following remarks is most respectfully requested. For the Patent Office's convenience a listing of claims appears in the attached **APPENDIX**.

Remarks Regarding Telephone Discussions

The Examiner's courtesies over the telephone have been most sincerely appreciated. As expressed in the telephone interview, the undersigned most respectfully traverses the Patent Office's rejections. As indicated, for the Examiner's convenience in review, this response sets forth some of the basis for this disagreement to facilitate the Examiner's review and appreciation.

Introductory Comments Regarding Maria Reference

As discussed in the telephone interview, it is most respectfully submitted that the Maria reference has some substantial deficiencies that are being overlooked by the Patent Office. It is most respectfully requested that the Patent Office carefully review

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the Maria reference. For the Examiner's convenience, some introductory comments regarding the Maria reference are now provided.

A. Filtering Based On Large List of Approved Site IP Addresses

The Maria reference focuses on "filtering" of Internet Web Site "content" that is provided to users over the Internet. In this regard, the reference teaches the maintaining of a large list of approved site IP addresses so as to restrict content received over the Internet.

The reference explains that "[w]ith the growing number of Internet sites, there is ... a growing number of sites which provide content that some companies may deem inappropriate." See column 1, lines 23+ (Emphasis added). In this context, the Maria reference indicates that "a substantial need exists for a ... data packet filter which can work with a large number of source IP addresses." See column 2, lines 30+.

Toward that end, the Maria reference "proposes a ... filtering processor whose only function is to filter data packets based on a list of source IP addresses." See column 2, lines 37+ (Emphasis added). Here, the reference explains that "the central administrator ... obtains new source IP address information from various sources, such

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as service providers or search robots specializing in gathering source IP addresses by category, e.g., telemarketers, adult material, advertising entities hate groups, and so forth." See column 2, lines 22+. The reference explains that this "list of source IP addresses" "rang[es] from hundreds to several thousand." See column 4, lines 35+.

Thus, the Maria reference teaches that the system operates such that a "packet is passed if the source IP address does match an address from list 33, and is dropped otherwise." See column 6, lines 39+. That is, the system passes the packet if it is from any one from a long list of IP Addresses. See also column 2, lines 42+ (Emphasis added).

B. IP Address Filtering Without Regard To Source Computer Identity

The Maria reference maintains this list of IP addresses without regard to what computer may use such IP addresses. In this regard, the IP addresses for Internet Web Sites can be implemented by various computers and can be switched to new computers. By way of example, a Web Site can potentially be switched to a new service provider having new computers at new locations, but utilizing the same IP addresses of the Web Site.

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The Maria reference does not involve any matching or the like of such IP addresses to computers.

C. No Security Provided Against "Authorized" Use of IP Addresses

The Maria reference relates to "filtering" of Internet Web site "content." The Maria reference does not address whether there is any "authorization" to receive communications from a user of a certain IP address and is not concerned with protecting against unauthorized use of IP addresses.

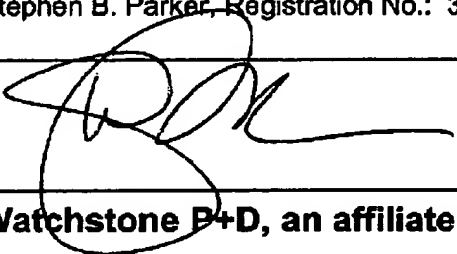
As previously noted, on the other hand, with some examples of the present invention, untraceable malicious acts can be prevented and those responsible for such acts can be caught. Some embodiments of the present invention can, *inter alia*, prevent individuals from accessing a network when they alter transmission logs or IP addresses of data packets. For example, such acts as "IP-spoofing" attacks, smurf attacks, teardrop attacks, etc. can be prevented. The Maria reference is wholly incapable of addressing these sorts of activities.

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Concluding Remarks

In view of the foregoing remarks, early reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 14-1437.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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